07 MAR 2006 UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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DECISION ON REQUEST

Merck & Co., Inc.
Patent Department, RY60·30
P. O. Box 2000
126 East Lincoln Avenue
Rahway, New Jersey 07065·0970

In re Application of

ANKER et al.

U.S. Application No. 10/520,962 PCT No.: PCT/US03/21493

Int. Filing Date: 08 July 2003

Priority Date: 11 July 2002

Attorney Docket No.: MS0012YP

For: TREATMENT OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN:

WITH 6H-PYRROLO[3,4·D] PYRIDAZINE COMPOUNDS

This decision is in response to applicants' "Renewed Petition and Request to Correct Inventorship Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.497(d)" filed 13 February 2006.

BACKGROUND

On 08 July 2003, applicants filed international application PCT/US03/21493 which claimed a priority date of 11 July 2002. The international application named Naomi Burke Anker; Jeannie M. Arruda; Brian Thomas Campbell; Benito Munoz; Petpiboon Prasit; and Brian A. Stearns as applicants/inventors. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.495, the deadline for payment of the basic national fee was to expire 30 months from the priority date, 11 January 2005.

On 10 January 2005, applicants filed a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage accompanied by, *inter alia*: the requisite basic national fee; a copy of the international application; and a preliminary amendment.

On 24 June 2005, the United Stated Designated/Elected Office mailed a Notification of Missing Requirements (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) indicating that an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b) must be filed. The notification set a two month time limit in which to respond.

On 28 November 2005, applicants filed a Petition under 37 CFR 1.497(d) and a declaration executed by: Naomi Burke Anker; Jeannie M. Arruda; Brian Thomas Campbell; Benito Munoz; Petpiboon Prasit; Brian A. Stearns and Tao Hu. In a decision dated 24 January 2006, applicants' request under 37 CFR 1.497(d) was refused.

On 13 February 2006, applicants filed "Renewed Petition and Request to Correct Inventorship Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.497(d)."

DISCUSSION

In the instant case, the international application named Naomi Burke Anker; Jeannie M. Arruda; Brian Thomas Campbell; Benito Munoz; Petpiboon Prasit; and Brian A. Stearns as applicants/inventors. Applicants request to add Tao Hu as an applicant/inventor. In order to correct an error in naming the inventor(s) made during the international stage in the national stage, a submission under 37 CFR 1.497(d) is required.

A submission under 37 CFR 1.497(d) to correct an error in naming inventorship requires: (1) a statement from each person being added or deleted as an inventor that the error in inventorship occurred without any deceptive intention on his or her part; (2) an oath or declaration by the actual inventor(s) as required by 37 CFR 1.497(a); (3) the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17; and (4) if an assignment has been executed by any of the original named inventors, the written consent of the assignee in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Applicants have satisfied items (1); (2); (3) and (4).

CONCLUSION

The renewed request under 37 CFR 1.497(d) is **GRANTED**.

A review of the application papers reveals that applicants have completed all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 for entry into the national stage. This application will be given an international application filing date of 08 July 2003 and a date of **28 November 2005** under 35 U.S.C. 371.

The application is being returned to the United States Designated/Elected Office for further processing in accordance with this decision.

Authony Smith Anthony Advisor

Office of PCT Legal Administration

Tel: (571) 272-3298 Fax: (571) 273-0459